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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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09/656,131

09/06/2000

Hiroshi Yamaguchi

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11/07/2006

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037-3202

EXAMINER

RAO, ANAND SHASHIKANT

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2621

DATE MAILED: 11/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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| EXAMINER |
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DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

Andy S. Rao
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2621

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 10/3/06 was filed after the mailing date of the Reply Brief Noted on 9/20/06. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement has been considered by the examiner. However, after such consideration, the Examiner notes that the merits of the case as stated in the Examiner's Answer of 6/2/06 is maintained. An initialed copy of the US-PTO 1449 has been returned with this communication, and the application has been returned back to Board of Appeals and Interferences.

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andy S. Rao whose telephone number is (571)-272-7337. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8 hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on (571)-272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2621

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

asr

November 6, 2006

Andy S. Rao
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2621

ANDY RAO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

